Equal Rights

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SATURDAY
JULY 8, 1933

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Carmela Ponselle

Carmela Ponselle of the Metropolitan Opera, loved throughout America, will make her first appearance in the national Capital when she sings a hymn to the triumph of women at the services, July 8, in memory of Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont and other early leaders who won the first steps in women's fight for equality. The words of the hymn were written by Mrs. Belmont shortly before her death, and its stirring music has been specially composed by Dr. T. Tertius Noble. At the time of her death, Mrs. Belmont was president of the National Woman's Party. Miss Ponselle's own ardent Feminism has led her to take part in this great women's memorial.

Equal Rights

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Associate Members	$1.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 1]
[House Joint Resolution Number 1]

Introduced in the Senate March 10, 1933, by SENATOR JOHN G. TOWNSEND, Delaware.

Introduced in the House March 9, 1933, by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW, Indiana.

To Unknown Women

IN the memorial services in honor of the leaders of the woman's movement and to those workers in the Woman's Party campaign for suffrage who since have died, there will be one banner more eloquent than any other. It will bear the name of no individual—it will record no special deed. Its words, "To UNKNOWN WOMEN", will pay tribute to hundreds of thousands upon whose lives and work the woman's movement rests.

Throughout the history of the movement, in the days when Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton went up and down the land rousing women to demand their rights, there emerge stories of women who entertained these courageous leaders in their homes at the risk of ostracism, who appeared with them on local platforms, who defended them in the local press, or who suddenly rose in their meetings to add their word of support, like the bride who stopped off at Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 and for twenty minutes held her audience "spellbound with her eloquence" as she prophesied the ennobling effect of suffrage upon women themselves and upon the people as a whole. Later there were the thousands upon thousands who throughout the country organized their own communities, held meetings, paraded, sent delegations to Washington. But behind all of those working directly for specific measures, have been the millions who have been building up the power and influence of women by the simple process of earning their own living.

It is since the Civil War that the power and influence of women has steadily increased, and more than to anything else the change in their position has been due to their achievement of economic independence.

Today it is the restrictions upon their right to earn a living that are threatening the freedom and power of women in every field. Again it is the result of these new tendencies, developing under the stress of economic depression, upon the lives of hundreds of thousands of unknown women which will slowly undermine the position of all women in our national life, unless counteracted by our united efforts.

Economic power made possible the winning of political power. Today political power must protect economic power. And now, as then, the issue will be decided by the determination and courage of thousands of women who will be unknown to those who profit by their devotion.

In Honor of the Past—In Pledge to the Future

TO those who have given their lives to the accomplishment of a purpose there is only one appropriate tribute. It is to carry their work forward until that purpose is finally achieved.

With this fact in mind there will appear in the memorial procession at the head of the banners of tribute one bearing these words:

"In Honor Of The Past
In Pledge To The Future"

Because during the last years of the suffrage campaign all effort was concentrated upon that issue, it sometimes seems as if the full purpose of the pioneers had been completed when the vote was won. This is far from true.

Only one item in the long list of objectives adopted in women's first Declaration of Rights is definitely won. Today we are concentrating on a second equality in the law. We are seeking to establish this principle not only in our own country, but throughout the world.

In our own country, to make this principle a part of the law of our land, we are seeking the passage of the Lucretia Mott Amendment.

To carry it into effect throughout this hemisphere a treaty was proposed by the National Woman's Party to the Pan-American conference in 1928, and will again be pressed at the Montevideo Conference next December, which reads as follows:

> "The Contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty, men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdiction."

In order that the principle of equality may be made to prevail as promptly as possible throughout the world, a treaty identical with the one above has been proposed to the League of Nations for adoption by all member governments.

Such is our immediate pledge to the future for one more step ahead. Its accomplishment will in fact do no more than remove obstacles to women's taking full responsibility for their own lives and the full share in the civilization of their times which the leaders we are honoring envisaged for them.

In Honor of Women Pioneers

IT is particularly fitting that at the memorial services for Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, which the National Woman's Party is holding, July 8, in Washington, honor should also be paid to the great early leaders in the movement for freedom of women. Growing up as a young girl during the years when Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were traveling slowly and painstakingly from State to State spreading the demand for Equal Rights and when the attacks constantly made upon them roused her deep sense of justice and sympathy, Mrs. Belmont always followed closely the history of their lives and paid them honor upon every possible occasion.

Because of its deep appropriateness to the spirit of these early leaders, Carmela Ponselle of the Metropolitan Opera Company who, as was announced in last week's EQUAL RIGHTS, will sing Mrs. Belmont's hymn, "Weep No More," will also sing during the ceremonies Josephine Preston Peabody's "Horizons Wider Ever," for which Dr. T. Tertius Noble has written stirring music for this special occasion.

Tributes in the name of the women of today to the women of the past will be made by Florence Bayard Hilles, and by Doris Stevens, the latter to contrast in her speech the period during which women advanced and won political equality with the present times of deep depression when civilization itself is being forced back and women must summon all their devotion and courage to hold the gains that they have made and press forward toward economic equality.

The names of the pioneers who will be honored in the ceremonies reflect the breadth of vision of these women who first undertook to win for women a place in the life of the nation. Besides a general support of the woman's movement as a whole, many of them devoted special effort to securing opportunities for women to enter various occupations and fields of work. Among the more than thirty women's organizations which are joining the National Woman's Party in this tribute to women, are several who will particularly honor individuals whose lives were devoted to the fields in which these organizations are now working.

A brief word on what these pioneers stood for, will show the wide reach of their interest and imagination. Earliest of all was Margaret Brent who, before the adoption of the Constitution, petitioned Lord Baltimore for Equal Rights for Maryland women. Abigail Adams at the time of the adoption of the Constitution threatened to "foment a rebellion" if women were given "no voice or representation" in the making of the laws; Margaret Fuller, as writer, urged the advancement of women in season and out; Sarah and Angelina Grimke, beginning as advocates of the abolition of slavery, turned to winning Equal Rights for women in order that they might have more power; Anne Hutchison and Antoinette Brown Blackwell brought the influence of women into the affairs of the church; Ernestine Rose raised the demand for equal property rights for married women, a demand to which not even all our own State governments have yet acceded; Abigail Scott Dunniway carried the cause to the West; Elizabeth Blackwell forced a way for women into medical schools; Julia Ward Howe and May Wright Sewall, realizing that without power women could not accomplish the reforms in which they were interested, devoted their lives to organizing women; Clara Barton and Kate Sherwood opened the public services of nursing and relief to women; Sophia Smith, and Mary Lyon, and Alice Freeman Palmer, founders of Smith and Holyoke and Wellesley, made it possible for women to receive the training that they needed in order to play a part in public affairs; Emma Willard also struggled to bring higher education within the reach of women; Frances Willard worked for the education of women, but devoted the last days of her life to temperance and suffrage; and, finally, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, and Anna Howard Shaw, all realized into how many fields the struggle for equality must be carried, but largely concentrated their efforts on the struggle for political freedom.

Professional women's groups will be represented among those who come to Washington to venerate the pioneers. Among them, the physicians have been organized by Dr. Elizabeth O'Mally, president of the National Women's Medical Association; the artists by Fanny Bunand-Sevastos; musicians by Flora McGill Keefer; and homemakers by Ruth Snodgrass. Among the many organizations whose banners will be carried in the procession will be the District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs of which Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley is president; the District of Columbia League of American Pen Women, Women of the Washington College of Law, Daughters of America, District of Columbia Bar Association, Soroptimist Club, Circles of the Ladies of the G. A. R., and the Woman's Relief Corps.

Large groups are also on the way to Washington from various States. The New York group will be led by Jane Norman Smith. Judge Genevieve Cline, of the United States Customs Court, who is coming with this group will be one of the notable women at the ceremonies. Others in the New York delegation will be: Marion May, Esther McLaughlin, Mrs. John Jay White, Wenona Marlin, Mary Murray and her daughter, Florence Feder; Mildred Palmer, executive secretary of the New York City Committee, a daughter of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Vrooman, formerly New Jersey State chairman, and her daughter, Jean Elizabeth Palmer; Marie Frugone, and Mary Emmons. Anne Carter, Texas member of the Congressional Committee, is already at headquarters. Mrs. Robert F. Hudson, State chairman, will represent the Virginia Branch and bring with her a group of officers and members of the Party; Leila Enders, State Chairman of New Jersey, will lead her delegation; Sara B. Cummings, Chairman of the Philadelphia Branch, will attend with a group of members from Pennsylvania; Ida I. Kloze, president of the Business and Professional Women's Council of Maryland, will lead her delegation which will include Catherine A. Wheatley, Amelia Himes Walker and Florence Elizabeth Kennard.

The State delegations will remain in Washington and on the following day will carry resolutions to President Roosevelt.

The words of the hymn written by Mrs. Belmont are well known to readers of EQUAL RIGHTS. Josephine Preston Peabody's song reads:

HORIZONS WIDER EVER

The walls that hold us from our onward sweeping,
Walls barring women ever from the reaping,
These walls must fall;
Standing together,
Women shall take
Their lives in their own keeping,

Horisons wider, wider, ending never,
Horizons beck'ning whither and where-soever,—
Horizons call;
Enter and conquer,
The wider world ever and forever.

Maud Younger Addresses Recovery Administration

IN THE auditorium of the new Commerce Building in Washington, which was packed to the doors, Maud Younger, Congressional Chairman of the National Woman's Party, spoke at a hearing, June 29, before the Industrial Recovery Administration. The hearing, which lasted several days, was on the code submitted by the Textile Industry.

The rules did not permit argument nor general statements, but required witnesses to speak to specific sections of the code. Since accepted codes will have the effect of law throughout the entire industry, these hearings which will undoubtedly influence the decisions of the Industrial Recovery Administration are of the greatest importance to women.

Miss Younger said:

On behalf of the National Woman's Party, I wish to speak to sections II and III of the Textile Industry Code before you.

We wish to state our approval of the fact that these sections apply to men and women alike and to emphasize the importance of including this same equal standard in all other codes which may come before you.

We do not take any position as to other phases of these sections. We only urge that all regulations regarding paid employment shall apply alike to all persons, and that this standard of equality of opportunity for men and women be observed in all decisions of the Industrial Recovery Administration.

SECTION III—HOURS

It was urged yesterday by Mr. McMahon and others that this textile code be amended to prohibit women from working after 6 o'clock at night. Though in most States women are barred from working after 10 o'clock, there are only three that have the 6 o'clock limit which you are asked to set for the textile industry—Massachusetts, Oregon, Wisconsin. I do not think it should be necessary to argue that this is a grave discrimination against women.

In all these cases where women are discharged their places are filled by men and boys. Though this may be the objective of some of the sponsors of these laws, I am quite sure that your Board is not trying to solve the unemployment problem by taking work from one group and giving it to another.

SECTION II—WAGES

We ask that there be no discrimination between men and women as to wages, but that wages be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker.

Since the question of a minimum wage for women only, will probably come before you, as it was urged upon Congress by some of your speakers, I will quote from some official reports of States which have such minimum wage laws for women only which show that they result in the replacement of women by men and boys.

Oregon—Fifteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor and the State Welfare Commission of the State of Oregon 1931-32—"At a meeting of the State Welfare Commission . . . . a delegation of working women appeared . . . . petitioned them to make a reduction in the minimum wage for women employees in canneries, contending that they were being discriminated against by the canneries, as boys and men could be hired for less than 27½ cents an hour. Many of these petitioners had dependents and insisted that it was necessary that they be employed. They suggested that the minimum wage be reduced from 27½ cents an hour to 22½ cents. They felt that if this were done they could compete with men and secure employment."

In *California*, where the minimum wage for women is $16 a week, the Chief of Industrial Welfare, Mrs. Mabel Kinney, has stated that women are finding it difficult to obtain employment in many lines which they formerly filled because thousands of men are willing to work for less than the minimum wage of $16 as fixed by law for women.

North Dakota—Seventh Biennial Report of the Minimum Wage Department of the North Dakota Workmen's Compensation Bureau, June 30, 1932—"Since the beginning of the depression . . . . there has been considerable agitation from employers . . . . many claiming that they would discontinue employing women workers and place male help in their stead, no legal wage having been established for the latter. Due to this situation, the enforcement of the law has been a very delicate problem and one requiring some tact, as an arbitrary stand would simply result in the replacement of deserving women workers by the opposite sex."

Massachusetts. When the Minimum Wage Commission sent its ultimatum to Harvard University on December 18, 1929, threatening that, if on December 26 any of the scrubwomen were still employed in the library at less than a 37 cent rate, it would exercise its right to publish a notice to the effect that the University was not complying with its decree, Harvard immediately dismissed the women and put men in their places.

It is now being claimed by supporters of minimum wage legislation for women that the dismissal of women had nothing to do with the decree of the minimum wage commission—that before the decree was issued Harvard University had decided to dismiss the women and try machines operated by men. A letter from President Lowell of Harvard to the Rev. William H. Duvall of Cambridge at the time disproves this. President Lowell said: "I find that the minimum wage board has been complaining of our employing women for those purposes at less than 37 cents an hour and hence the University has felt constrained to replace them with men."

You said, Mr. Allen, that I would speak from the consumer's point of view, but at the hearing of the House Labor Committee, when we were opposing the minimum wage for women only as suggested by the American Federation of Labor (pp. 69, 75, 85, and 87), there were eight organizations of women, self-supporting women, who joined with the Woman's Party in opposition.

These included the Bindery Women's Union, Local No. 66, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders; New York State Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; New York State Business and Professional Women's Council; Business Women's Legislative Council of California; National Association of Women Lawyers; Women's Equal Opportunity League; New York City Zonta Club; and the Brooklyn-Manhattan Woman's Transit League.

At the hearing before the Governor of New York on the Women's Minimum Wage Bill there were 16 organizations, mostly self-supporting women, including the American Alliance of Civil Service Women (New York Chapter), Bindery Women's Union (Local No. 66), International Brotherhood of Bookbinders; Brooklyn-Manhattan Women's Transit League, Business and Professional Women's Club of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Brooklyn Women's Bar Association (Equal Rights Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, National Woman's Party, New York State Branch; National Women's Real Estate Association, New York State Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, New York State Business and Professional Women's Council, Soroptimist Club of New York City, Women's Equal Opportunity League, Zonta Club of New York City, and Zonta Club of Albany.

I would like to file a letter from the Bindery Women's Union, protesting against a minimum wage for women that does not apply also to men and asking the Woman's Party to represent them at the House hearing.

I would like to make one general statement before closing. Since the depression, the struggle of women has been two-fold. They have had to struggle with others against the depression and they have had to struggle against having their jobs taken away to make work for someone else. From one end of the country to the other, when citizens have met to consider finding work for the unemployed, almost invariably it is suggested that some of the work be provided by taking it away from women. Without any statistics, we have only to look around and see how women have been disappearing from their accustomed places, from department stores, from elevators, from behind soda fountains, and so on. On the other hand, when work is started to give employment, it is seldom the kind of work that women can do. This stupendous undertaking which you are directing gives almost the only hope of work for women.

The Recovery Act as passed by Congress makes no distinction between men and women as to labor regulations. We urge that this board, which is charged with its administration, shall maintain these standards of equality.

Women of All Nations Must Unite for Equality

By Fanny Bunand-Sevastos,
Executive Secretary of the Inter American Commission of Women

I SHOULD like first to review some of the main events which led up to the National Woman's Party's proposed Equality Reservation to World Court adherence by the United States, even though many of the readers of EQUAL RIGHTS are already familiar with them. I have to go as far back as 1927, when the international work of the National Woman's Party started. Alice Paul, our beloved leader and wise counselor, had been for some time making a profound study of the possibility of submitting to the world an Equal Rights Treaty. I do not suppose she had determined, at the time, when and where and how such a treaty could be launched. But an occasion arose.

The plenipotentiaries of the 21 republics forming the Pan-American Union were to gather in Havana in February, 1928. A group of women led by Doris Stevens and Jane Norman Smith proceeded to Havana where, after ardent pleas, they laid the treaty before the Sixth International Conference of American States. The treaty reads: "The contracting parties agree that from the going into effect of this treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights in the territory subject to their respective jurisdiction." The presentation of the treaty did not result in its adoption by the Sixth Conference but in the creation of the Inter American Commission of Women. The commission is formed of 21 women appointed by the respective governments forming the Pan-American Union. Its work is to study and advise concerning the position of women on the American continent.

The treaty was then taken to France by Doris Stevens, in her capacity of chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the National Woman's Party. The plenipotentiaries of the leading nations of the world were then assembled in Paris to sign the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact, and it was hoped that the Equal Rights Treaty might be presented to them during their stay in Paris. A committee of ten women representing various European countries as well as the United States finally went to Rambouillet, the summer residence of the President of the French Republic, on the day M. Doumergue was entertaining all the plenipotentiaries at luncheon. The women sought a few minutes time in which to present the Equal Rights Treaty to these men. Once at the gates of the presidential chateau the women tried to ask for an audience of ten minutes, unfolding the flags of the countries which they represented and a banner bearing the inscription, "We ask for an Equal Rights Treaty." I ought to make it clear that the women were compelled to adopt this course since they had been unable, after endless interviews and negotiations, to obtain an interview with the plenipotentiaries through the regular official channels. And when they tried to get a note to the President of France, it was torn to pieces by the police at the gates; the women were arrested, taken to the police station and kept there for several hours—until the plenipotentiaries had departed.

Rambouillet, after Havana, was the second time women had presented a treaty on their rights. And if the results of this endeavor were not as fruitful as in Havana, they had at least one merit: the Equal Rights Treaty was brought to the attention of leading statesmen of the world, and to public opinion through a formidable world press campaign.

Now, the treaty is in Geneva in the hands of the Equal Rights International, a new organization, created for the sole purpose of securing its adoption through the League of Nations.

While the Equal Rights Treaty is our ultimate goal, it is essential that before that goal is reached, women should be watchful of international conventions which may discriminate against them in one field or another. That is why, when we learned that the new code to be launched by the League of Nations, and to be world law to serve the World Court, might contain articles dealing with the nationality of women, the Inter American Commission of Women undertook immediately the study of nationality. Alice Paul, as chairman of the Commission's nationality committee, has accomplished a tremendous work on this subject. She has compiled the nationality laws of all the countries of the world with respect to women, with texts in the original languages, and accompanying translations. The result of her work—a treaty similar in form to the Equal Rights Treaty but dealing only with nationality rights—was approved by the Inter American Commission of Women, and by the National Woman's Party, and taken by the chairman of the Commission to The Hague where it was presented to the First Conference for the Codification of International Law, and its adoption urged.

Some of you have undoubtedly read what happened in that peaceful city of The Hague—which incidentally was not so peaceful after our arrival—that our proposed treaty was not acted upon. Instead, over the will and protest of the leading women's organizations of the world, a convention dealing unequally with women's nationality was voted for by all nations except the United States. This unfair convention was then sent to all governments for ratification, and upon ratification by ten countries it goes into effect.

It was in the autumn following the Hague Conference, that Alice Paul went to Geneva to see what could be done to prevent ratification. After several months of untiring efforts and a strong campaign before the Assembly and the Council of the League of Nations proclaiming women's dissatisfaction with The Hague Convention, she secured from the Council the creation of the Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality. This committee is composed of two members of the leading women's international organizations of the world and its purpose is to report on the nationality of women, setting forth their views on this question for presentation to the Assembly. The Consultative Committee has already met twice in the Secretariat of the League Building, bringing together eminent women of the Feminist world. Twice the committee has agreed on reports which condemn The Hague convention and recommended the re-opening of the question with a view to getting a world agreement on nationality, which is none other than Miss Paul's treaty: "The contracting States agree that from the going into effect of this convention there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice relating to nationality." When the subject came up, during the last Assembly, the discussion was a very heated one. Marta Vergara and Maria Pizano, respectively from Chili and Colombia, who (incidentally) were appointed delegates to the Assembly through the efforts of the Inter American Commission of Women, put up a very brave fight on behalf of equal nationality rights. They were backed by most of the women delegates to the Assembly, and by nearly all of the Latin American men delegates. Various resolutions were introduced—a particularly interesting one, drafted by M. Rollin, of Belgium, suggesting to replace, in the articles of the Nationality Convention, the word "women" with the word "person." Finally, after a long debate, the Assembly decided:

a. To invite the Women's Consultative Committee to continue.

b. It recommended to governments to bring their national legislation on nationality into harmony with the wishes of the women's organizations.

c. It instructed the Secretary General to keep in touch with national legislation with a view to a new nationality convention.

d. Lastly, the Assembly recommended to governments to ratify The Convention.

This last recommendation is really the one with which we are concerned today.

Or, I would rather put it this way: How are we to prevent ratification of the convention by all the countries of the world? Immediately after The Hague Codification Conference, and ever since, countries have been ratifying. Three of them have already sanctioned the convention and others will certainly follow rapidly, if nothing is done to stop them. Obviously, it is a tremendous task to prevent ratification by each individual country. It means arousing not only the women's organizations, but also public opinion in each and every country of the world. Last year, while in Geneva, Miss Paul sent women to Norway, Poland, Italy and Spain. You can easily understand how terribly expensive, lengthy, and complicated this procedure is. From the Washington office, the Commission has made every effort to wage a campaign on this hemisphere. It has kept in close contact with its representatives in Latin American countries, asking them to urge their respective governments to withhold ratification, but revolutions, wars, and governmental changes are always interfering. As you see, this method cannot bring us very satisfactory results. Another way had to be found—a way which would compel the League of Nations to stop ignoring the demands of women.

Alice Paul found the way. It was around this time last spring, that Alice Paul had one of those strokes of genius, one of those audacious ideas which are at first regarded as impossible, but which always prove to be the only quick and successful solution. I am referring now to the reservation for the adherence of the United States to the World Court which reads: "That the code of law to be administered by the World Court shall not contain inequalities based on sex."

Last year, this reservation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Nye, of North Dakota. It was, therefore, ready to be attached to the World Court resolution whenever that resolution came up on the Senate floor. However, it never reached this point. It was reported out by the Foreign Affairs Committee as both the partisans and opponents of the Court thought the question ought not to be discussed when there were so many more pressing domestic problems to decide. But the question is still imminent. A few weeks ago, when adherence to the World Court was brought up in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Nye introduced again the equality reservation on the Senate floor, and the matter is apt to come up at any time.

The importance of the equality reservation is extreme. If the reservation were voted upon by the Senate and accepted by other countries, it would automatically compel the re-opening of The Hague Nationality Convention, as part of the projected code to be administered by the Court. The ratification of the Convention would therefore be stopped. It would not only act for this present convention but it would be a guarantee that future conventions, in order to form part of that same code which will be law for the World Court to base its decisions upon, would not discriminate against women. No articles placing women in an inferior position to that of men could ever again be included in such international agreements. And this interests every one of you because in the future there will be conventions on all matters: divorce, property rights, domicile, labor conditions, night work, etc.

It may clear up matters to give you an illustration. Let us suppose that a Russian woman marries a Dutchman. He dissipates all her fortune and she goes to live with an uncle in Russia. The uncle dies and leaves his personal property to his niece with the express condition that the husband is not to administer it. The husband thereupon sues to have control of this property. In his country, men and women are not equal under inheritance laws and he is the administrator of his wife's property. In Russia, men and women are equal under inheritance laws. If the case involves several millions, it might lead to an action before the World Court—as both countries, Russia and Holland, would want to be the beneficiaries of the inheritance tax and the decision of the Court might turn upon the fact that it may not apply a law which discriminates against women.

If the new code is started on a basis of equality, it will set a higher standard and be an example which will certainly induce countries to improve their national laws concerning the status of women in accordance with this international standard. The code of law to be administered by the Court is supposed to represent the utmost of progress. It is to be a sort of ideal international law. We cannot allow it to start with the same prejudices, the same inequalities, the same injustices as we find in our national laws. The opening articles of the code as they are actually drawn up are really more representative of countries like Ethiopia or Liberia where the rights of women are totally ignored than of those countries which have recognized rights inherent in all human beings. In addition to the hardships such a retrograde code would impose on women, it would cause a disastrous moral effect on the whole world, undoing the work of years towards the civil and political emancipation of women.

So you see, how very urgent it is to prevent by all possible means this code from being launched on its actual basis of inequality.

Many of you will wonder why it is up to the women of the United States to undertake this new fight. There is only one reason and it is an excellent one. It reminds me of a story which we were told as children. Henry the IV had just arrived for a visit to his native city Pau, which is in the Béarn, in the western south of France, and where he had not been since he had been crowned king. The mayor who was greeting him was full of apologies because they had not fired the cannon in his honor: "Your Majesty," he said, "will pardon us. We have been unable to fire the cannon for thirty-six reasons. The first one is that we have no cannon."

At this point in his speech the King interrupted, and said smilingly:

"You may dispense with the other reasons. I believe this one is sufficient."

Well, it is very much the same way with the women of other nations. They cannot fire the cannon because they have no cannon. Their countries already belong to the Court and in many of them women don't even have the right to vote. What can French women do for instance? Just about nothing. Their country is already in the Court. They can protest, but no heed will be paid their wishes. So you see, it is up to you. It is up to the women of the United States to see that the new code will contain this principle of equality for which you have been struggling so long. Because over here you have suffrage, you are powerful, because many of you occupy positions of influence, because your voices have weight and are heard, because the adherence of the United States to the World Court is very much desired by all the other nations. For that reason the other countries will accept the equality reservation, just as they have accepted the other five reservations. Now the time is ripe to work for it. When you have joined the Court it will be too late.

Some of you may say that the women of the United States do not really need to be concerned, since their laws are really so much more advanced on many points than those of the other nations and would probably be taken as models by the jurists of future international conventions. I will remind you that, when you were working for Federal suffrage, women already had the vote in some of your States, therefore Federal suffrage did not mean much to them. But, all the same, they helped the women of other States; their gains were put at your service. The women over here are now placed in that very same position in which the women of Wyoming, Colorado or California were when you fought for the right to vote. Your turn has now come to lend a helpful hand to the less fortunate women of other lands.

If you will, you can all help. Go to see the two Senators of your State, and also get other people to go to them. Use all your influence and prestige to bring them to act on the matter. Never mind

what the position of the 94 other Senators will be, provided you have the assurance that your own Senators stand as solid as rocks on the matter of the equality reservation.

Do not allow the opposition to say that this is again one of those obstructive and destructive measures for which the Woman's Party stands and campaigns. It is neither. It is on the contrary of a most constructive character. It is a cornerstone in the building of one of the great moral forces of the universe: the co-operation between man and woman. And, without equality, there can be no true, no real co-operation.

Now, before bringing this article to a close, I want to say a word on the importance of the results you will obtain in the United States concerning the equality reservation in relation to the Montevideo Conference. The Inter American Commission of Women is now drawing up a report on the status of women of the 21 countries which are represented in the Pan American Union in order to present it to the Seventh Pan American Conference which is scheduled to take place next December at Montevideo. The Equal Rights Treaty and the Nationality Treaty will both be presented at that Conference. How much stronger our position will be with the Latin American countries if you can get unanimous support of the Senate by then. The firm stand of one nation, especially one as powerful as yours, will encourage the other nations to adopt the same spirit. Not only one nation, but the whole Western Hemisphere could then present an united front in urging the European countries to adopt a code of law with equal provisions for men and women.

Before December 1, 1933, try to persuade the two Senators from your State to address a letter to the Pan American Union, stating their belief in Equal Nationality Rights for men and women, and urging the adoption by the Pan American Conference of the Equal Rights Treaty to the Equal Nationality Treaty.

Student Essayists Win Notable Award

THE secret is out. The eagerly-awaited announcement of the winners of the prizes in the nation-wide Equal Rights Essay contest is made today by the Students' Council of the National Woman's Party.

Two splendid money prizes were offered, one for five hundred dollars and one for two hundred dollars. The first is awarded to Elizabeth W. Higgins of Southbridge, Mass., a student at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, and the second to Thyra Smith of Jacksonville, Illinois, a student at MacMurray College of Jacksonville, Illinois.

Five women who have won fame as authors or for their public work for women were the judges: Fanny Hurst, novelist; Inez Haynes Irwin, president of the Authors' League of America; Mrs. Fremont Older, novelist, dramatist and historian; Ruth Hale, president of the Lucy Stone League; and Judge Genevieve Cline, Judge of the United States Customs Court.

It is particularly appropriate that the announcement of the prizes should be made at this time when the National Woman's Party is about to memorialize the woman whose generosity made the contest possible. The two prizes were the gift of Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, whose active and unremitting efforts in behalf of the advancement of women during her life are living on and bearing fruit after the author of them has passed away. The prizes include a trip to Washington, and it is anticipated that the prize-winners will come to the capital to attend the national memorial services to Mrs. Belmont and other pioneer women leaders, July 8, in which a thousand women will participate, and will also join the deputations which will call upon President Roosevelt the following day to urge him not to allow the gains which women have made and the ideals for which the pioneers stood to be cast aside in the present national emergency.

The Equal Rights Essay contest because of the importance of the subject, the magnanimous awards, and the very widespread interest resulting from the fact that it was open to under-graduate women in colleges and normal schools throughout the land, was one of the outstanding educational events of the year. According to a statement by Margaret Luers of George Washington University, Chairman of the Students' Council of the National Woman's Party, the object of the contest was: "To make women college graduates aware of the discriminations which they now face in undertaking any important career and to rouse them to determined effort to remove these discriminations." The essays dealt with some phase of the Equal Rights Amendment, which reads: "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdication." EQUAL RIGHTS heartily congratulates the contest winners.

The salient points in each essay are contained in the following paragraphs:

"FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW AFTER"

Extracts from Essay by
ELIZABETH W. HIGGINS,
Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont
(Winner of $500 Prize)

Today in America woman has marshalled her forces to obtain the adoption of the Lucretia Mott Equal Rights Amendment to the National Constitution. What she seeks through the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment is the opportunity for both men and women to develop to the greatest degree all their powers and abilities under the most favorable conditions that can be obtained through legislation. It was John Stuart Mill who wrote: "The proper sphere for any human being is the highest sphere that being is capable of attaining; and this cannot be ascertained without complete liberty of choice." The complete liberty of choice for which the Equal Rights Amendment provides would not affect most of the protective legislation now in force. The Children's (so called Mothers') Pensions would continue to be administered as at present. That is, the aid is based upon the need of the child and given to either parent or guardian to administer as, for example, in Colorado the law gives it to either parent who is responsible for the child and unable to support it.

In the same way, existing Maternity Legislation, as exemplified in the Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act, would not be affected by the Equal Rights Amendment. The Children's Bureau is charged with the administration of this act, which provides for an appropriation for the United States Treasury to the several States "for the purpose of co-operating with them in promoting the welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy." All laws of this nature which are now in force would continue to function as at present.

But it is the purpose of the amendment to do away with something like one thousand discriminations against women which exist today in the laws of our country. . . . .

The inclusion of the principle of Equal Rights for men and women in a nation's constitution is a forward step and so recognized by those nations whose constitutions have been rewritten since the war. Germany, Lithuania, Esthonia and Austria are among those which provide that all citizens, men and women, are equal before the law.

To educate, to organize, to bring about action is not easy, but it is possible; and, if the freedom and rights of American womanhood are to be assured, it is necessary. . . . .

Equal Rights is not solely a woman's cause. For many years men and women have worked together to establish the enduring institutions of this country. Always in American history the principle

has been of paramount importance, and if "constitutions are not made but grow," healthy growth will include this principle of Equal Rights for men and women throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EVE"
Extracts from Essay by
THYRA R. SMITH, MacMurray College,
Jacksonville, Illinois.
(Winner of $200 Prize)

As a brief summary of the phases of the Equal Rights Amendment which have been considered in this essay, we state that the proposed Federal Amendment, "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction," is the only effective remedy for existing inequalities: first, because it would override all existing legislation that denies women Equal Rights; second, because it would render invalid every future attempt on the part of legislatures to interfere with these rights; third, because State legislation cannot effectively establish equality of rights for women; and, fourth, because the form of the proposed amendment meets all requirements, for it is general and deals with principles upon which our government is based; it takes care of any specific legislation that may arise in States; and it will not affect the significant points of protective legislation for women.

Press Comment

Retailers Propose Discriminatory Code

The Baltimore Sun, June 26, 1933.

NEW YORK, June 25 — The first code for retailing, prepared by the National Retail Dry Goods Association in compliance with the National Industrial Recovery Act, was made public tonight by Lew Hahn, president of the association. The code is designed to govern the 4,000 department stores, dry goods stores, mail-order houses and specialty shops which are members of the association. These establishments in 1932 did a total volume of business estimated at close to $3,500,000,000.

The code, which was approved by the association's board of directors "with only one dissenting vote," has been sent to the individual members of the association for comment and approval.

It has not yet been forwarded to Hugh S. Johnson, administrator of the National Industrial Recovery Act. The association hopes, Mr. Hahn said, that when the code is complete it will represent the entire retail craft covering the drug, hardware, grocery, jewelry, furniture, shoe and men's clothing fields, as well as those represented by the National Retail Dry Goods Association. . . .

The code also recognizes the right of retail employes to organize and bargain collectively. There will be a 48-hour week in the retail field, with the exception, it was decided, of the two weeks prior to Christmas and two days for inventory taking. The 48-hour week will not apply to executives.

The minimum wage for men over 18 in the metropolitan areas of over 1,000,000 population was set at $18 for the 48-hour week. A $12 minimum wage was set for women employes above 18 years and $11 minimum weekly wage for junior employes of both sexes.

Within metropolitan areas of 250,000 to 1,000,000 population, the minimum wage for men was set at $15, for women at $11 and for junior employes at $10. In the balance of the country the minimum wage for men was placed at $12, for women at $10 and for junior workers at $9. . . .

Administration of the retail code will be carried on through a national retail recovery board, which, when formed, will consist of one or more members from each of the national retail organizations that may join in the acceptance of a single code.

The associations, in addition to the dry goods group, which will become members of the new board, are the American National Jewelers' Association, National Association of Retail Clothiers and Furnishers, National Association of Retail Druggists, National Association of Retail Grocers, National Retail Furniture Association, National Retail Hardware Association, and National Shoe Retailers' Association.

Local retail recovery boards are to be set up in each of the local metropolitan trading areas and in the various rural areas, the members of these local boards being recruited from the various associations comprising the national board. The code then provides that it "shall be the duty and responsibility of the local recovery board to draft such regulations as may be necessary to make the provisions of this code applicable to the business situation within an area, but the essentials set forth in this national retail code shall be the minimum to be observed in each locality."

Among the group of directors and ex-directors and committee members which has reviewed the code was Albert D. Hutzler of Baltimore.

Nazis Set the Clock Back

Arthur Brisbane in The Baltimore News, June 30, 1933.

IN Germany the new broom is sweeping clean, with much new lawmaking, and sweeping away some things that will be missed later.

The most recent announcement tells of a "Spartan eugenics code," which is to produce better German babies. Fathers and mothers selected from the eugenic standpoint. Mothers are told to cease filling their brains with useless education and concentrate on producing fine German children. Modern Germany is to be inspired by the example of ancient Sparta. . . .

Going back to Sparta and Draco is going a long way back for inspiration.

Delicate children, according to the Nazi idea, are "not worth bothering with." To produce husky young Germans is the great thing. That's going back to the red Indian, who had a habit of killing any baby that was imperfect. Neither red Indians nor Spartans ever amounted to much in the world's history, however.

Women Not Excluded

Ruth Finney in The Baltimore Post June 30, 1933.

WASHINGTON, June 30 — The cotton textile industry's code of fair competition will be rewritten within the next few days as a result of conferences between Industrial Recovery Administrator Hugh Johnson and officials of the Textile Institute.

At these conferences administration officials will recommend changes they believe should be made as a result of this week's hearings. The industry will decide whether it wishes to accept them or not. . . .

There is little chance the administration will favor exclusion of women from night work.

U. S. Woman Becomes English Barrister

The Sun, Baltimore, Md., June 30, 1933

LONDON, June 29 (AP)—Margaret Kingsland Haskell of Evanston, Ill., has qualified by examination to practice as an English barrister.

She was "called to the bar," meaning that she was officially granted a lawyer's rights. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania.

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